free transportation for the carriage of human remains and offers one free ticket for the accompanying passenger with a maximum of 50 kg for the personal effects of the deceased to help labourers and workers in Gulf who cannot afford to pay for the carriage. This is subject to an endorsement from the Indian mission.

(c) and (d) Indian Airlines also provides free transportation for the carriage of human remains. However, it does not provide complimentary tickets to persons accompanying the human remains due to its critical financial position.

Air service between Aurangabad and Jeddah

3260. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any plan to introduce a direct flight to Jeddah for Haj pilgrims from Aurangabad in view of the long standing demand of local people; and

(b) if so, whether this flight would be introduced from the next Haj pilgrimage period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration, at present. Starting a new point is a policy decision which is taken only after due consultation with Ministry of External Affairs and Central Haj Committee keeping in view the costs involved and facilities available at the airport.

Purchase of 'Air Force One' type aircrafts

3261. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has entered into negotiations with Boeing of the US for purchase of three 'Air Force One' type aircrafts exclusively for the use of the President, the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the special features of these aircrafts; and

(c) the cost of these aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) The Government is planning to

procure new aircraft for VVIPs and other dignitaries. The cost and other details would be known only after finalisation of negotiations with the vendor.

Indo-British cooperation in civil aviation sector

†3262. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Britain propose to co-operate in civil aviation sector;

(b) if so, the details of such plan; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) As per the existing co-operation in civil aviation sector between India and Britain, Air India is operating 11 services per week, British Airways is operating 18 services per week and Virgin Atlantic is operating 3 services per week in India-Britain sector. However, Bilateral air services talks between the two countries is held from time to time to review the air services matters.

FDI in airports

3263. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no proposals for Foreign Direct Investment in airports have been received although Government have repeatedly emphasized that it would allow 74 per cent of FDI in airports and even 100 per cent in green field ventures;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that under the Airports Authority Act the AAI is the only body authorised to build and operate airports and, therefor, prospective investors are reluctant to commit their investments without the enabling legal provisions; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to remove such disabilities to encourage inflow investments?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.